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Ex-Spy Claims to Be Son, Heir of Late Czar

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Polish-American, 60, Describes 'Proof,'
Says 1918 'Assassinations' Were Faked

NEW YORK (UPI) — A former Polish secret service officer who spied for the United States laid claim Saturday to the Romanoff millions for himself and his four sisters, claiming to be the children of Czar Nicholas II.

The newest pretender to the non-existent throne of imperial Russia is Col. Michael Goleniewski, 60, who lives with his wife and baby daughter at an undisclosed Long Island address.

Goleniewski said he was prepared to back up his claim with lie-detector tests, fingerprint tests, dental comparison and medical proof that he is a hemophiliac, as was the czar's only son, Grand Duke Alexei Nicholaevich.

Fingerprint Claim

None of the "proofs" have been made public yet, but Cleve Backster, an identification expert and former FBI adviser, said recently that fingerprint and dental comparisons prove that Goleniewski is Alexei. The grand duke's fingerprints were said to have been found on books and documents now in England.

Goleniewski said the reported "assassination" of the Romanoffs in 1918 was faked and the 40 charred fragments of bone later dug up by White Russian investigators were not enough to make a single body. No skulls ever were found in the burial pit, but some personal possessions of the imperial family were recovered. Goleniewski said the burial was a fake.

Goleniewski's claim was first put forward last September by Robert Speller, a New York publisher who is planning a book entitled "The Reemergence of the Romanoffs." Saturday the moustachioed claimant made it official by taking a three-column ad in the New York Journal-American.

The claimant said he and the four alleged grand duchesses — Olga, Anastasia, Maria and Tatiana—had been prevented from making their identities known for 47 years by "provocation, insinuation, and manipulation" of persons interested in getting their hands on the czar's bank deposits outside Russia. He estimated these at \$400 million.

Controversial Book

Goleniewski said three of his sisters are in the United States. One is Mrs. Eugenia Smith, whose book "Anastasia" renewed the Romanoff controversy when it was published in 1963.

Goleniewski defected in 1961 with the aid of the Central Intelligence Agency and came to the United States in the same year. He has testified before congressional committees concerning Communist spy activities in the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. He has been given U.S. citizenship by special act of Congress.

The defector said Saturday's advertisement was in response to false statements made by a High Russian Orthodox prelate, Archbishop-Count Georgi Grabbe, that he had never recognized Goleniewski as Grand Duke Alexei. Grabbe, protopresbyter of the synod of orthodox bishops outside Russia, married Goleniewski to a woman of Russian extraction last

Grabbe identified him as Alexei Nicholaevich Romanoff and Grabbe knew of his imperial claims. He indicated Grabbe was now under the influence of the "forces" which wish to keep the Romanoffs "isolated."

The pretender said the entire imperial family escaped from Bolshevik detention at Ekaterinburg, Russia, in a deal made with Lenin and lived under assumed names among other Russian refugees in Poland. He said the Czarina Alexandra died in 1924 and the Czar died in 1932 at the age of 84.